



**Fw: Water Defense Cries Foul on EPA Region 3's Dimock Statement**  
Terri-A White to: Joan Schafer

03/16/2012 04:02 PM

From: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US  
To: Joan Schafer/R3/USEPA/US@EPA  
History: This message has been replied to.

Hi Joan,

Hope all's well. Just keeping you informed. Have a great weekend!  
----- Forwarded by Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US on 03/16/2012 04:01 PM -----

From: "Rubinkam, Michael" <mrubinkam@ap.org>  
To: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA  
Date: 03/16/2012 03:57 PM  
Subject: FW: Water Defense Cries Foul on EPA Region 3's Dimock Statement

Any response?  
**Michael Rubinkam** | Northeastern Pa. correspondent



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**From:** Water Defense Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy  
**Date:** Fri, 16 Mar 2012 15:25:30 -0400  
**To:** <undisclosed-recipients:;>  
**Subject:** Water Defense Cries Foul on EPA Region 3's Dimock Statement  
For Immediate Release: March 16, 2012  
Contact: Ana Tinsly, Water Defense, 646-331-4765

# Water Defense Cries Foul on EPA Region 3’s Dimock Statement

Statement from Claire Sandberg, Executive Director of Water Defense:  
“In the middle of an investigation into water contamination caused by natural gas drilling, with only partial results from less than 20percent of households under investigation, the EPA's Region 3 office issued a press release last night implying that Dimock, PA's water has been given a clean bill of health. In the same statement to the press, EPA admitted thatseveral families still have arsenic and methane in their water, but the news headlines are already proclaiming that the water in Dimock is safe. We are deeply troubled that EPA Region 3 has allowed its investigation to be employed in the service of the gas industry spin machine before testing is even complete. We call on EPA Region 3 Administrator Shawn Garvin to immediately release the agency’s test results publicly, so that independent scientists, the public, and the Dimock residents themselves canevaluate the findings thus far. We also would like answers to the followingquestions:  
Why is EPA Region 3’s handling of the Dimock case so different from the way other EPA regional offices have handled similar cases in Texas and Wyoming? When similar contamination was reported in Pavillion, EPA Region 8 refused to release any results until after a year’s worth of testing was complete. When EPA finally released results showing that the gas industry had poisoned Pavillion's water, the EPA let the data speak for itself instead of editorializing. We would expect the same kind of balanced approach in Dimock. In Texas, EPA Region 6 ordered Range Resources to provide replacement water to families after their water was found to be contaminated with explosive levels of methane, which the EPA found posed an “imminent endangerment to the health of persons using those private drinking wells.” In contrast, EPA Region 3 acknowledges that the Dimock residents’ water is chock full of explosive levels of methane, but says the methane is not a health or safety problem. What accounts for this difference?  
In terms of chemicals present in the Dimock residents’ water, how is EPA establishing a standard of safety? Previous testing of Dimock water has found high levels of contaminants for which safe levels have not yet been established by EPA or DEP, but which are known to present possible health risks, including: naphthalene, phenanthrene, butyl benzyl phthalate, 1-methylnaphthalene, 2-methylnaphthalene, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, 2-methoxyethanol, Bis (2-Ethylhexyl) adipate, Bis (2-Ethylhexyl) phthalate, methylene blue active substances, gas range organics, acetone and ammonia. Although not presently regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency or the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and thus no MCLs exist, these chemicals are not safe for ingestion, in either the short or long term.  
In light of these serious unanswered questions, it is hard not to conclude that EPA Region 3 is putting political expedience before the science and Dimock residents’ health. We hope that is not the case, and call on Region 3 Administrator Shawn Garvin to immediately release all available testing results, and affirm his commitment to a transparent and unbiased investigation.”

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Ana Tinsly  
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